

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 23, 2009. Claims 37 to 44 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, 17 and 21 to 36 having been cancelled and Claims 37 to 44 having been newly-added. Claims 37, 41, 43 and 44 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, 17, 21 to 24, 27, 28, 30, 31 and 33 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,782,495 (Bernklau-Halvor) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,779,118 (Ikudome), and Claims 25, 26, 29 and 32 were rejected under § 103(a) over Bernklau-Halvor in view of Ikudome and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0051893 (Hanai). Inasmuch as the rejected claims have been cancelled, the rejections are believed to be obviated. However, Applicant submits that newly-added Claims 37 to 44 are believed to be allowable over the art of record for at least the following reasons.

The invention relates to a client terminal being able to display the status of accessories for a connected device (e.g., ink remaining amount for a connected printer). In the invention, the client terminal acquires information of the state of the accessories from the device, and transmits the acquired accessory information to a transfer server by adding the accessory information to a first address of the transfer server. The transfer server designates a service providing apparatus and notifies the client of a second address for the apparatus, to which the accessory information has been added. The client, upon receiving the second address, is redirected to the service providing apparatus and accesses the apparatus using the second address with the accessory information added thereto. The

service providing apparatus can then generate screen information on the accessories (e.g., depicting the ink remaining amount) and transmit it to the client terminal for display.

Referring specifically to the claim language, Claim 37 is directed to an online service system comprising a client terminal, a transfer server, and a plurality of service providing apparatuses each capable of communicating via a network, wherein the client terminal is connected with a device, and the client terminal comprises an acquisition unit that acquires accessory information indicating a state of accessories of the device, a first transmission unit that transmits the acquired accessory information to the transfer server by using a first address for accessing the transfer server, the accessory information being added to the first address, a reception unit that receives, from the transfer server, a second address to which the accessory information is added, the second address for accessing a service providing apparatus designated by the transfer server, and a second transmission unit that transmits the accessory information to the designated service providing apparatus by using the second address, wherein the transfer server comprises an address generation unit that designates one of the plurality of service providing apparatuses based on the accessory information added to the first address, and generates the second address by adding the accessory information to an address for accessing the designated service providing apparatus, and a notification unit that notifies the client terminal of the second address, and wherein the service providing apparatus comprises a screen information generation unit that generates screen information of the accessories of the device based on the accessory information added to the second address, when the access by using the second address is received from the client terminal, and a screen information transmission unit that transmits the generated screen information to the client terminal.

Claim 41 is directed to the client terminal aspect of system Claim 37, while Claims 43 and 44 are method and computer medium claims that substantially correspond to Claim 41.

The art of record, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 37, 41, 43 and 44, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a client terminal receiving, from the transfer server, a second address to which the accessory information added to the first address is added, the second address for accessing a service providing apparatus designated by the transfer server based on the accessory information, transmitting the accessory information to the designated service providing apparatus by using the second address to which the accessory information is added, and receiving screen information on the accessories of the device from the service providing apparatus, the screen information being generated by the service providing apparatus based on the accessory information transmitted by the second transmission step.

Bernklau-Halvor only discloses that the printer 14 receives the support information by using the link transmitted from the support server 110. In Bernklau-Halvor, a printer 14 (computer 28 of the printer 14) collects diagnostic information (use information and state). The printer 14 accesses a support server 110 to transmit the diagnostic information to the support server 110. The support server 110 searches support information based on the diagnostic information, and transmits a link to the support information to the printer 14. The printer 14 selects the link in response to a user operation to receive the support information. However, Bernklau-Halvor is not seen to teach the features of a client terminal receiving, from the transfer server, a second address to which

the accessory information added to the first address is added, the second address for accessing a service providing apparatus designated by the transfer server based on the accessory information, transmitting the accessory information to the designated service providing apparatus by using the second address to which the accessory information is added, and receiving screen information on the accessories of the device from the service providing apparatus, the screen information being generated by the service providing apparatus based on the accessory information transmitted by the second transmission step.

Ikudome is seen to teach that a personal computer (PC) 100 accesses a dial-up networking server 102. The dial-up networking server 102 inquires about user ID input from the personal computer 100 to an authentication and accounting server 204. The authentication and accounting server 204 authenticates the user ID, and instructs to allocate the dial-up networking server 102 an IP address of the personal computer 100 when the access to a network is permitted. The authentication and accounting server 204 transmits a rule set corresponding to the user ID and the IP address to a redirection server 208. The redirection server 208 redirects data of the user (personal computer 100) to another website in accordance with the rule set of the user (personal computer 100). However, Ikudome is not seen to teach anything that, when combined with Bernklau-Halvor, would have resulted in the features of a client terminal receiving, from the transfer server, a second address to which the accessory information added to the first address is added, the second address for accessing a service providing apparatus designated by the transfer server based on the accessory information, transmitting the accessory information to the designated service providing apparatus by using the second address to which the accessory information is added, and receiving screen information on the accessories of the device from the service

providing apparatus, the screen information being generated by the service providing apparatus based on the accessory information transmitted by the second transmission step.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 37 to 44 are believed to be allowable over the art of record.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believe to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward Kmett/

Edward A. Kmett
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10104-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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